THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). The allocation and disbursement of funds for R.E. Programme in U.P. and Orissa upto the end of February, 1992 is as under:

*(Rs. in crores)*

| *S. No.* | *Name of State* | *Allocation* | *Disbursement* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | U.P. | 68.32 | 41.07 |
| 2. | Orissa | 33.6 | 26.89 |

The U.P. Govt. has recently requested for reduction of target of village electrification, due to which funds are not likely to be fully utilised. In the case of Orissa, the balance allocation is likely to be utilised by the end of March, 1992.

(c) The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 75 crores and Rs. 40.45 crores to U.P. and Orissa respectively for the next financial year.

[*English*]

**Equity Participation by Foreign firms in Power Generation**

3073. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow 100% equity participation by foreign firms and foreigners in power generation, and in its distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response to this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have notified the details of the policy to encourage private enterprises participation in the electricity sector in the Gazette Notification No. 237 dated 22.10.90. The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1991 which came into force with effect from 15.10.1991, provides for a liberalised legal frame-work for the implementation of the scheme to encourage private enterprises participation in electricity generation, supply and distribution as well as widening the scope of private enterprises participation in the electricity sector. The policy frame-work in this regard provides for electricity projects to be set up by foreign private investors with foreign equity participation upto 100%. The condition of dividend balancing by export earnings which is normally applied to cases of foreign investment upto 51% equity will not be applicable to such foreign investment in the power sector.

(c) Foreign investment proposals have been received for equity participation in five power projects for installation of 490 MW.

**Supply of Iron from China**

3074. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import iron ore from China; and